

# PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

The Man Who Now Becomes the Chief Executive of the Nation—Striking Personalities Which Have Made Him a Unique Character In National Politics—He Believes In the Strenuous Life.

Theodore Roosevelt, the new president of the United States, is one of the most remarkable men in this country. His career, which from the outset has been a most "strenuous" one, may be divided into nine phases or stages, leading up to the tenth as president, upon the duties of which he is just entering.

In nine different roles he has given evidence of the attributes that make him today perhaps the most talked of man of forty-three in the world.

Of aristocratic birth, a member of a family distinguished for valor, patriotism and culture for many generations, young Roosevelt first stood for public favor when he appeared as candidate for assemblyman in his native city, New York. He was then just out of college, 1879, and was twenty-one years of age.

Even his opponents admit that he was a zealous servant of his own party—an unwavering Republican. He

pressive language, "to take some of the frills out of the New York tenderfoot."

A well known character approached Roosevelt and asked him what he intended to do and what kind of game he was after. The New Yorker said he was after grizzlies, and it was soon noised about the camp that the "four eyed tenderfoot" was looking for big game. The hardest man in the vicinity sent word to Roosevelt that he couldn't shoot any grizzlies in that territory and that if he attempted to the "bad man" in question would be informed and proposed to shoot Roosevelt at sight.

When this message was conveyed to the blue eyed tenderfoot, he seemed greatly pleased, and, looking eagerly through his glasses, he inquired of his informant "where the 'bad man' lived." Immediately upon receiving the desired information Roosevelt rode over to see the man who proposed to shoot him. When he reached the camp of the individual in question, the "bad man"

Strong of New York city.

From the very first Roosevelt foresaw the possibility of a conflict with Spain, and he set about preparing his department for it. He pushed repairs on the ships, he worked with might and main for the navy personnel bill and visited the various naval reserves throughout the country. He left nothing undone, in fact, that would secure the highest efficiency in the service when the time for action came. It is an open secret that he it was who first realized the tremendous opportunity that the war would open in the east and who had Dewey, in whom he recognized the right man for the place, appointed to command the eastern squadron. And naval officers agree that the remarkable skill in marksmanship displayed by the American gunners was due to his foresight. He saw the necessity of practice, and he thought it the best kind of economy to burn up ammunition in acquiring skill.

A characteristic story, of the truth of which there is no doubt, is told regarding Roosevelt's insistence on practice in the navy. Shortly after his appointment he asked for an appropriation of \$800,000 for ammunition, powder and shot for the navy. The appropriation was made, and a few months later he asked for another appropriation, this time of \$500,000. When asked by the proper authorities



MISS ALICE ROOSEVELT.  
[President's eldest daughter.]

what had become of the first appropriation, he replied, "Every cent of it was spent for powder and shot, and every bit of powder and shot has been fired." When he was asked what he was going to do with the \$500,000, he replied, "Use every ounce of that, too, within the next thirty days in practice shooting." When the Maine was blown up, Mr. Roosevelt had no doubt that war would follow and that shortly, and his energies were bent with redoubled force to getting the navy ready. When war did finally break out, Mr. Roosevelt was for rushing matters, for taking Havana at once and dictating terms from there.

## ROOSEVELT'S ROUGH RIDERS.

Naturally enough, Roosevelt would not be content to sit behind a desk while there was fighting going on. He submitted his resignation to the president on April 16 and tried to get an appointment upon General Lee's staff. Then came the rough rider idea, the seventh phase of Roosevelt's career, hardly thought of before it was realized. "Roosevelt's rough riders"—something in the alliteration of the name struck the popular fancy, and the regiment became famous before it was organized. Roosevelt had had some military experience as a captain in the Eighth regiment, but not enough, in his estimation, to fit him to command a regiment in time of war, and he modestly took the second place and was content to learn from his friend, Dr. Wood.

It is hardly necessary to recount the history of the rough riders from the time they were organized in San Antonio, Tex., until they were mustered out at Camp Wikoff—to recall the jungle fight of Las Guasimas and the bloody charge at San Juan Hill. The tale is still on every one's lips. But it is worth while to recall the remarkable influence Roosevelt's personality had over his men, an influence that welded a thousand or more independent cow-punchers, ranchers and athletes into a fighting machine. "You've got to perform without flinching whatever duty is assigned you regardless of the difficulty or danger attending it. No matter what comes you mustn't squeal." These words of Roosevelt's became almost a religion with his men. "To do anything without flinching and not to squeal" was their aim, and to hear the colonel say "Bully!" was reward enough.

## GOVERNOR, VICE PRESIDENT, PRESIDENT.

Colonel Roosevelt returned to the United States to find that he was already talked of as the next governor of New York. But his regiment, which he had "breathed and eaten with for three months," was still on his hands and he had no time for anything but it. Not until he became a plain citizen on Sept. 15 would he talk of politics, and then he found the tide of events bearing him along inevitably and irresistibly.

The eighth stage of Roosevelt's career began with his assumption of the office of governor of New York state and the ninth with his inauguration as vice president of the United States March 4, 1901.

A tenth phase is just opening for him as the chief executive of the greatest nation in the world.

President Roosevelt's ancestry and

his rearing and education, coupled with an excessively aggressive nature, manifested unmistakably even in his very early boyhood, seemed to presage for him a more than ordinary career.

## ROOSEVELT'S ANCESTRY.

Theodore Roosevelt was born Oct. 27, 1858, in his father's house, 28 East Twentieth street, in New York city. In that quiet region around Gramercy park, the home of many families bearing names held in high honor and esteem, there was none bearing a name more highly honored and esteemed than the family into which Theodore Roosevelt was born. For six generations his forebears had been prominent as citizens of New York and distinguished in the councils of the city. His father, James J. Roosevelt, was alderman from 1835 to 1840, congressman from 1841 to 1843 and supreme court justice from 1854 to 1860; his grandfather, James Roosevelt, who was a merchant, was assemblyman in 1796-97 and alderman in 1809; his great-grandfather, Cornelius C. Roosevelt, likewise a merchant, was alderman from 1785 to 1801; his great-great-grandfather, Cornelius Roosevelt, was alderman from 1759 to 1764; his great-great-great-grandfather, John Roosevelt, also a merchant, was alderman from 1748 to 1767, and his great-great-great-great-grandfather, Nicholas Roosevelt, was alderman of New York city in 1700-01.

Such was the life of the sturdy Dutch ancestors from whom Theodore Roosevelt inherited his name. But, although his name is Holland Dutch, Scotch, Irish and French Huguenot blood mingle in his veins in equal measure with that of his Dutch ancestors and accounts to no small extent for the personal qualities of the man, his energy

house is adorned with trophies of the chase.

Here it is that most of his books and articles, of which he has written many, were brought into being.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt is the most enthusiastic admirer and ardent helper of her husband in his political career. She is absorbed heart and soul in her husband's success, as she has been from the time they first knew each other as children. Mrs. Roosevelt, who before her marriage was Miss Edith Carow, possesses great intelligence, a remarkably fine education and a wonderful power of effacing herself and at the same time exerting a great influence. She is very pretty, slight, of medium height and has dark brown eyes and hair. She has not gone much into society since her marriage, as she has been more or less an invalid, and she has devoted herself entirely to her children and her home. She has five children of her own, and there is also a daughter by Mr. Roosevelt's first wife, a girl of seventeen, to whom Mrs. Roosevelt is the most devoted of mothers.

## MRS. ROOSEVELT AND THE CHILDREN.

Mrs. Roosevelt was a playmate of Mr. Roosevelt's sisters and of Mr. Roosevelt himself when they were children. They went to the same dancing class, were identified with the same set in society, and there were a great many people who predicted that as these children grew up they would marry. However, as is well known, Mr. Roosevelt's first wife was Miss Lee of Boston, and at the time of that marriage Miss Carow was abroad, where she remained for some time. Mr. Roosevelt met her in Europe after his wife's death, and their engage-



MRS. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

ment was not announced for some months. When it was announced, the congratulations were most sincere from every one who knew them and realized how well suited they were to one another. Like her husband, Mrs. Roosevelt is an enthusiastic novel reader, but also keeps well up on all the topics of the day. She is a good French scholar and also speaks German. During the years spent in Europe she traveled everywhere and always kept up her studies. The Roosevelts heretofore have seldom entertained formally, preferring to keep open house.

When they first went to Washington, it was quite a break to leave all their

and perseverance, his impulsive, not to say fiery, temperament and his vivacious mode of expression. With the impetus of family and the favorable material conditions in which he found himself as well as by the force of his own personality, Roosevelt might have advanced rapidly in any path he chose, whether it led toward brilliant social success or the making of a large fortune. That he chose a career of public service is characteristic of the man, the more so in that he saw in the course he had marked out for himself small chance of pecuniary remuneration and a struggle for principle that might jeopardize those rewards that are the politician's. Once decided he never swerved from his course. For more than twenty years he has been before the public eye as an aggressive political force.

## THE ROOSEVELT HOMESTEAD.

Vice President Roosevelt's homestead near Oyster Bay, N. Y., is an ideal country seat, and the Roosevelt family is a very old one in the neighborhood. The house is large, homelike and country, quite unpretentious. It crowns the very topmost peak of Sagamore hill.

The approach to the house, through forest and meadow, is beautiful and refreshing in the extreme. But it is not until after one reaches the top of Sagamore hill that the full beauty of the magnificent panorama is revealed. The view of the bay, the headlands, with the Long Island sound and the Connecticut coast stretching for miles and resting against the deep blue of the sea, is so restful, so altogether lovely, that it cannot soon fade from the memory.

The library, which is a splendid room directly off the main hall, contains about 5,000 books. The interior is one of enchantment to the genuine book lover. A big open fireplace stretches across one end of the room. Above it is a magnificent display of the heads of deer, rams, antelopes, mountain sheep and other trophies of Colonel Roosevelt's skill as a hunter.

The floors are covered with rugs made of the skins of lions, bears, buffaloes and panthers, all victims of the vice president's gun. In fact the whole



QUENTIN ROOSEVELT.  
[President's youngest son.]

New York friends, but it was not long before Mrs. Roosevelt, as well as her husband had formed a circle of new acquaintances, and their house in Washington was the center of much that was delightful and interesting. When Mr. Roosevelt decided to come back to New York again, Mrs. Roosevelt felt badly at breaking up her life in Washington, but, as usual, said nothing and allowed herself to be carried away by her husband's enthusiasm over his new field of work and came back to New York and took up her life where she had left it before.



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

was then, as now, athletic and remarkable for his boundless energy, his interest in people and things and his unflagging enthusiasm.

The second stage of Mr. Roosevelt's public career was that in which he announced himself as candidate for mayor of New York.

It was very characteristic that he should, with his belief in himself, consider the office of mayor one which he was equipped to fill, but unquestionably if Mr. Roosevelt were consulted today he would agree with his friends that his defeat in this race was beneficial to him. Defeated as candidate for mayor, Mr. Roosevelt next appears as a national civil service commissioner, and here again his party found him studious, untiring, capable and efficient.

This appointment was made in 1889 by President Harrison when Roosevelt was a trifle over thirty. Two years later, in 1891 the fourth stage of Mr. Roosevelt's remarkable life, he appears as a hunter of big game.

When Theodore Roosevelt concluded to hunt grizzly bears, he naturally decided to do so in what he considered proper costume, and it is most interesting to see the dramatic instinct again dominating. The pictures of Mr. Roosevelt taken in his costume as a hunter show him holding his rifle, loaded with many bullets. The leather breeches, with their picturesque adornment of fringe; the hunting shirt of leather, embroidered supposedly by Indians; the scarlet silk handkerchief, ivory handled revolver, the knife thrust through the cartridge belt, are all the fitting paraphernalia of the cowboy's lore.

## ROOSEVELT AS A HUNTER.

When Roosevelt, dressed in his gaudy and personally selected hunting costume, made his appearance among the untrammelled citizens around Little Missouri river, he was looked upon as a tenderfoot or a very elementary hunter. The toughs who proposed to show him a thing or two arranged among themselves, in their own ex-

had forgotten why he intended to shoot, and was very much disposed to be amiable with the tenderfoot from the east.

Mr. Roosevelt not only wore a costume which he considered appropriate for killing grizzlies, but he actually killed more bears than the best of the "bad men," and his unquestioned bravery and fearlessness won him, as it always does with the Bret Harte type of man, unbounded respect and love.

What the men of the west thought of the tenderfoot was shown when Theodore Roosevelt called for volunteers for the rough riders, among whom were some of those who tried to "take the frills off the New York dude" when he first appeared among them and who today lovingly and loyally refer to him as a leader whom they would follow to the death.

## POLICE COMMISSIONER OF NEW YORK.

The fifth stage of Mr. Roosevelt's career was embodied in his service as police commissioner of New York city. Other commissioners have come and gone, and their records are more or less prosaic, but the history of Theodore Roosevelt stands out again picturesque, dramatic and alive with the intensity of the man's nature, an intensity which differentiates him at every step of his career from his predecessors or successors. As police commissioner Mr. Roosevelt made New York seethe with excitement. Disguised, he visited at night the various precincts, seeing for himself and testing the probity and capability of his corps. By day he fought the other police commissioners, he upset old time rules and enforced old time "blue laws," because, as he explained, they were in the statute books and must be obeyed until they were repealed.

The sixth phase of Mr. Roosevelt's career was brief, but most satisfactory, and was embraced in the short time of his service as assistant secretary of the navy. Colonel Roosevelt was nominated by President McKinley on April 6, 1897. On April 17 he tendered his resignation as police commissioner to Mayor